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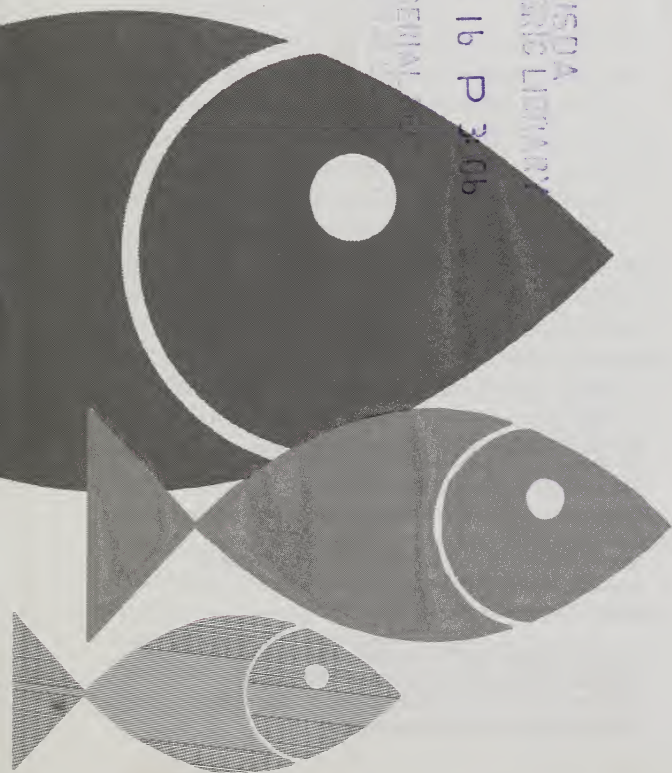
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Program Aid 1583

Exporting U.S. Aquaculture Products



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Seventeen years ago, with a stroke of the legislative pen, the U.S. Congress passed the National Aquaculture Act of 1980. This Act designated the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the lead Federal agency with respect to the coordination and dissemination of national aquaculture information by designating the Secretary of Agriculture as permanent chair of the coordinating group for American aquaculture. Since that time, the aquaculture industries have grown almost 400 percent and now make up the fastest growing segment of U.S. agriculture.

In today's fast-paced international economy, USDA has become the doorway through which America's aquaculture farmers can access the world. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains a principal role in the facilitation of international trade. As countries grow closer together through agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) experts work closely with American aquaculture farmers to ensure that they understand the new trade rules and that their products meet foreign trade requirements.

The products of American aquatic farming do not just jump from the pond onto the world's dinner table. The process begins when farmers or exporters target a specific foreign market. Once the destination country is identified, farmers or exporters must make sure their products meet its animal health requirements pertaining to aquaculture. APHIS VS personnel at the National Center for Import/Export, in Riverdale, MD, can usually help farmers and exporters obtain importing countries' requirements. But in some cases, farmers and exporters may have to contact the importing country directly.

To help the aquaculture industries meet the requirements of foreign markets, APHIS VS maintains 43 Area offices. One of these serves the New England States; 1 serves Ohio and West Virginia; 1 serves Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia; 1 serves Alaska and Washington; 1 serves Puerto Rico; and each of the remaining States has its own. An Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC) oversees the activities of each of these 43 offices. See the end of this brochure for a list of addresses and phone numbers for the Area offices.

After an aquaculture farmer makes initial contact with the Area office and receives a copy of the importing country's requirements, an APHIS veterinarian will conduct a site visit to evaluate that farmer's facility. These visits are usually scheduled before diagnostic sampling takes place.

The APHIS veterinarian will base the site evaluation on the importing country's animal health requirements.

Importing countries often require that:

- The facility be overseen by an APHIS-accredited veterinarian;
- The facility's water source be clean and meet country-specific conditions;
- Products be properly identified; and
- The diagnostic sampling protocol used to test aquatic species meet general minimum standards based on the diagnostic manual of the Office of International Epizootics.

The next step in the certification process is the gathering of required diagnostic samples. After taking the samples, the accredited veterinarian completes the laboratory submission document, identifies the sample's lot number, and sends it and the samples to an APHIS-approved laboratory. The laboratory transmits the test results directly to the Area office and sends a copy back to the accredited veterinarian. Upon receipt of the test results, the accredited veterinarian fills out the animal health certificate.

The certificate clearly identifies the product being shipped, the farm location, and the lot identity. This information must correspond to the identification on the test samples, and the valid date on the certificate must specify the period that shipments may be made from a specific lot. The health certificate is valid for one country only, and the accredited veterinarian must ensure that the importing country is the only one listed on the certificate. After completing the certificate, the accredited veterinarian forwards it to the AVIC at the appropriate Area office.

Once the lab report and the health certificate arrive, the AVIC reviews the lab report to make sure that the stock complies with the reporting country's requirements and confirms that the veterinarian who signed the certificate and oversaw the operations of the producer's facility is accredited. When the AVIC receives all of the information and everything is correct, the health certificate is endorsed and given to the farmer or exporter. The AVIC also forwards a copy to APHIS VS headquarters in Riverdale, MD.

It is very important that the accredited veterinarian work through the local Area office of the AVIC. Health certificates that are sent directly to APHIS VS headquarters without going through the local AVIC will not receive an endorsement and therefore will not be valid.

Once the flow of trade begins, a farmer must maintain a log of all certificates and shipments exported. The records are to include the animal health certificate number, destination country, species, and the number of animals or live eggs shipped. Each month, either the farmer or the accredited veterinarian serving the farmer must send a copy of this record to the Area office.

USDA, APHIS, and APHIS' AVIC's all work to support the aquaculture industries. By working together with these USDA experts, accredited veterinarians, and APHIS-approved labs, farmers and exporters can introduce their products to world markets and compete on an international scale.

For More Information

Office of the National Aquaculture Coordinator

Aquaculture farmers and exporters with additional questions may contact

National Aquaculture Coordinator
USDA, APHIS, VS, National Animal Health Programs
4700 River Road, Unit 43
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
Telephone: (301) 734-7679

The following is a list of the 43 APHIS AVIC offices, by VS region.

Offices of APHIS Area Veterinarians-in-Charge, by VS Region

Northern Region

Illinois

2815 Old Jacksonville Rd., Suite 101
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 492-4104 (voice), 492-4354 (fax)

Indiana

6960 Corporate Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1928
(317) 290-3300 (voice), 290-3311 (fax)

Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia

2568-A Riva Road, Suite 207
Annapolis, MD 21401
(410) 962-7726 (voice), (301) 261-8113 (fax)

Michigan

Delhi Commerce Center
2450 Delhi Commerce Drive, Suite 4
Holt, MI 48842
(517) 694-7410 (voice), 694-0933 (fax)

Minnesota

251 Starkey Street
Bolander Building, Suite 229
St. Paul, MN 55107
(612) 290-3691 (voice), 228-0654 (fax)

New England (including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)

Sutton Square Plaza, Suite 20
160 Worcester-Providence Road
Sutton, MA 01590-9998
(508) 793-0593 (voice), 865-9317 (fax)

New Jersey

Mercer Corporate Park
320 Corporate Boulevard
Robbinsville, NJ 08691-1598
(609) 259-8387 (voice), 259-2477 (fax)

New York

One Winners Circle, Suite 100
Albany, NY 12205
(518) 453-0187 (voice), 453-0213 (fax)

Ohio and West Virginia

12927 Stonecreek Drive

Pickerington, OH 43147

(614) 469-5602 (voice), 866-1086 (fax)

Pennsylvania

2301 N. Cameron Street, Rm. 412

Harrisburg, PA 17110

(717) 782-3442 (voice), 782-4098 (fax)

Virginia

Washington Building, 6th Floor

1100 Bank Street

Richmond, VA 23219

(804) 771-2774 (voice), 771-2030 (fax)

Wisconsin

6661 Odana Road

Madison, WI 53719

(608) 264-5208 (voice), 833-2953 (fax)

Southeastern Region

Alabama

Beard Office Building

1445 Federal Drive

Montgomery, AL 36107

(334) 223-7141 (voice), 223-7352 (fax)

Florida

207 N.W. 23d Avenue

Gainesville, FL 32609

(352) 377-5632 (voice), 371-4866 (fax)

Georgia

1500 Klondike Road, Suite A-101

Conyers, GA 30207

(770) 922-7860 (voice), 483-9000 (fax)

Kentucky

643 Comanche Trail

Frankfort, KY 40602

(502) 227-9651 (voice), 223-7121 (fax)

Mississippi

345 Keway Street

Jackson, MS 39208

(601) 965-4307 (voice), 965-5535 (fax)

North Carolina

2 W. Edenton Street, Rm. 574

Raleigh, NC 27601

(919) 856-4170 (voice), 856-4446 (fax)

Puerto Rico

Plaza 20 Building, 2d Floor

603 Hippodromo Avenue

Santurce, PR 00908

(787) 729-6897 (voice), 729-6863 (fax)

South Carolina

9600 Two Notch Road, Suite 10

Columbia, SC 29229

(803) 788-1919 (voice), 788-2102 (fax)

Tennessee

Animal Industries Building
Ellington Agriculture Center
440 Hogan Road, Room 206
Nashville, TN 37220
(615) 781-5310 (voice), 781-5309 (fax)

Central Region

Arkansas

1200 Cherry Brook Drive, Suite 300
Little Rock, AR 72211
(501) 224-9515 (voice), 225-5823 (fax)

Iowa

Federal Building, Room 891
210 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 284-4140 (voice), 284-4156 (fax)

Kansas

1947 N.W. Topeka Blvd., Suite F
Topeka, KS 66608
(913) 235-2365 (voice), 235-1464 (fax)

Louisiana

Room 1140
5825 Florida Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806-9985
(504) 389-0436 (voice), 389-0524 (fax)

Missouri

1442 Aaron Court
Jefferson City, MO 65110-4418
(573) 636-3116 (voice), 636-4384 (fax)

Nebraska

5940 S. 58th Street

Lincoln, NE 68516

(402) 434-2300 (voice), 434-2330

North Dakota

1135 S. 12th Street

Bismarck, ND 58504

(701) 250-4210 (voice), 250-4471 (fax)

Oklahoma

4020 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 101

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

(405) 427-9413 (voice), 427-9451 (fax)

South Dakota

314 S. Henry, Suite 100

Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 224-6186 (voice), 224-8451 (fax)

Texas

Thornberry Bldg., Room 220

903 San Jacinto Blvd.

Austin, TX 78701

(512) 916-5551 (voice), 916-5197 (fax)

Western Region

Arizona

4625 S. Wendler Drive, Suite 206

Tempe, AZ 85282

(602) 379-3391 (voice), 379-3413 (fax)

California

9580 Micron Avenue, Suite E
Sacramento, CA 95827
(916) 857-6170 (voice), 857-6196 (fax)

Colorado

384 Inverness Drive South, Suite 150
Englewood, CO 80112
(303) 784-6229 (voice), 784-6235 (fax)

Hawaii

3375 Koapaka Street, Suite H-420
Honolulu, HI 96819
(808) 861-8560 (voice), 861-8570 (fax)

Idaho

7261 Franklin Road
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 375-0389 (voice), 375-0397 (fax)

Montana

208 N. Montana Avenue, Suite 101
Helena, MT 59601-3837
(406) 449-5407 (voice), 449-5439 (fax)

Nevada

1550 Wells Avenue, Suite 100
Reno, NV 89502
(702) 784-5414 (voice), 784-5652 (fax)

New Mexico

6200 Jefferson Street, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
(505) 761-3160 (voice), 761-3176 (fax)

Oregon

530 Center Street, NE, Suite 335

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 399-5871 (voice), 399-5607 (fax)

Utah

176 North 2200 West

Airport Park, Building #4

Salt Lake City, UT 84116

(801) 524-5010 (voice), 524-6898 (fax)

Washington and Alaska

2604 12th Court, S.W., Suite B

Olympia, WA 98502

(360) 753-9430 (voice), 753-9585 (fax)

Wyoming

2617 East Lincolnway, Suite C

Cheyenne, WY 82001-5662

(307) 772-2186 (voice), 772-2592 (fax)

VS' National Center for Import/Export

Finally, aquaculture farmers and exporters may contact VS' National Center for Import/Export at (301) 734-8364 (voice) or 734-6402 (facsimile) for help with the importation requirements of most foreign countries.

